

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of March 20, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,709,450). The rejection of these claims is traversed and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis et al. is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "connector for electrically connecting the electrode of the lamp to the wire, the connector directly contacting the electrode of the lamp and a portion of the wire." None of the cited references including Francis et al., singly or in combination, teaches or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 2-6, which depend therefrom are allowable over the cited references.

The Examiner cites Francis et al. as disclosing "Mounting the DLA 14 in the central opening 12... is a base [having] a first ...conductor 22... [connecting] end 24 of the DLA [14]. An opposite end of the first conductor 22 is connected to a ...pin 26. ...[a] socket 50 [rotatably mounted on the base 16] ...[having] a first concentric conductor 52 having a collar 54 at one and a blade terminal 56 at an opposite end. The collar 54... is provided for

electrically mating with the pin 26 of the ...first conductor 22... The socket [50] also has two tubular openings 70 and 72 which allow for entry of lead wires 74 and 76... The lead wires have appropriately crimped to them terminals 78 which have a nib 80. The nibs 80 fit within matching apertures 82 provided in the blade terminals 56 and 61, respectively.” (Office Action at 2). Moreover, the Examiner states that Francis discloses the present invention except for the shape of the connector. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Francis et al. lacks the shape of the connector. Also, Applicant respectfully submits, as noted above, that Francis et al. lacks at least a “connector for electrically connecting the electrode of the lamp to the wire, the connector directly contacting the electrode of the lamp and a portion of the wire.”

Applicant believes the present application in condition for immediate allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7413.

Application No.: 10/025,911
Group Art Unit: 2875

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Page 6 of 6

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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